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XI.—*Notes of a Journey from Baghdad to Busrah, with Descriptions of several Chaldæan Remains.** By W. KENNETT LOFTUS, Esq.

Communicated by the EARL of CLARENDON.

Read, March 10, 1856.

THE tract of country between the important cities of Baghdad and Busrah is thinly inhabited by a rude and almost savage race of nomad Arabs, who are continually at war with each other and with the Turkish authorities. It is also frequently overrun by plundering parties of the fierce Aneza and Shammar Bedouins, from the great western deserts. Hence it is that this portion of Mesopotamia is seldom traversed, except by messengers and others whom speed or positive necessity compels to adopt this line of route. The traveller usually proceeds by boat down the river Tigris.

A favourable opportunity, however, presented itself for passing through the region in question and for visiting several interesting ancient sites hitherto unknown or undescribed. In December, 1849, it was arranged that a detachment of Turkish cavalry—forming the escort of the commissioners appointed by the English, Russian, Turkish, and Persian governments for the demarkation of the Turko-Persian frontier—should leave Baghdad and travel by the most direct route to Busrah. Being anxious to make certain geological investigations in the deserts east of the Euphrates, I readily obtained permission to accompany the troops from Lieut.-Colonel W. F. Williams, R.A.,† the British commissioner, to whose party I was attached. Mr. H. A. Churchill was also allowed to accompany me; to this gentleman I am deeply indebted for the admirable drawings which illustrate the Memoir, and for the care taken in laying down the map from our joint observations.

Dec. 27, 1849.—The party set out from Baghdad early this morning, but we were disagreeably surprised to learn that our line of route had been altered. The troops had received orders to proceed from Hillah, along the western bank of the Euphrates, on account of the general insecurity of the country, and the difficulty of crossing the numerous water-courses in the Jezireh.‡ The road to Hillah, and the ruins of Babylon, have

* The original memoir (with maps and drawings by Mr. Henry A. Churchill), together with the antiquities it was intended to illustrate, was deposited in the British Museum in 1851, whence it has been procured by permission of the Trustees.

† Now Major-General Sir W. Fenwick Williams, Bart., K.C.B., of Kars.

‡ Mesopotamia, being enclosed between the Tigris and Euphrates, is usually denominated the "Jezireh," or *Island*.



Map of
CHALDEA, SUSIANA, &c
 to illustrate Journeys to several Ancient Remains;
 & also the determination of the
River Euphrates
 of the Greek Historians.
 By W^m Kennett Loftus Esq^r.
 1856.

Route of M^r Kennett Loftus



been so frequently described that it is unnecessary to dwell on this portion of our journey.

On reaching Hillah, we determined on carrying out our original design of proceeding through Mesopotamia. The Turkish officers of the escort and the authorities at Hillah made repeated efforts to dissuade us, by representing the Arabs as in a state of insurrection and the country as flooded with inundation. Finding, however, that our resolution was taken, they gave up the attempt, and Tahir Bey, the military governor of the place, ordered eight Bashi-Bazúks to accompany us to Abdi Pasha of Baghdad, who was then at Diwanieh, and to whom we were the bearers of despatches.

Dec. 30.—A heavy rain during the night delayed the appearance of our guards until 8 o'clock this morning. Having at length made a start and got clear of the date groves, we rode for $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles nearly due E., across fallow land as far as the Werdieh Canal,¹ which is supplied with a considerable stream of water from the Euphrates, at a point midway between the Kasr mound at Babylon and the town of Hillah. For about a mile beyond this canal the ground was much inundated, and we were obliged to follow a very tortuous course in order to avoid the mud. From a ruined kala'at,² or fort, the general direction of the day's line of march was a few degrees s. of E. On our left, at the distance of about 4 miles, could be discerned the mounds along the course of the modern canal called Shat-el-Níl, running out into the desert S. of the conical Babylonian mound of El Hymar. The course of the ancient river of the same name, which flowed through Mesopotamia, carrying the water of the Euphrates to several important, but now deserted cities, was pointed out to me, bearing in a s.s.e. direction, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. w. of El Hymar. On the probable course of a branch from the ancient Níl I shall hereafter have to speak. At about 1 m. from the kala'at, the road traverses a low range of drifted sand-hills,³ which bear n.e. probably 1 m., and s.w. out of sight. The width of this ridge is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m., and it is always altering in form, although continuing near the same locality. Mr. Ainsworth* attributes the presence of these sand-drifts "to springs, which moisten the sand and cause its accumulation, allowing at the same time the prevalent winds to alter the form and number of the hills, while their bases have a fixed point of attraction." Such may undoubtedly be the case,

* 'Researches in Assyria, Babylonia, and Chaldæa,' p. 117.

¹ Hillah minaret	258°
Babil mound	327
Tomb and trees	358
F. road	151

² Hillah minaret	272°
Tomb and trees	332
³ B. to Kala'at	279
F. road	115

but I am disposed to believe that they are nothing more than ordinary sand-drifts. The decayed stumps of tamarisk bushes (*Tamarix orientalis*, Forskal) are constantly observed to be the nuclei around which drifting sand accumulates.* Springs are, as far as I am aware, unknown in the deserts of Mesopotamia—wells, wherever they occur, being supplied by rain or inundation.

Beyond these ridges is the dry bed of an old canal,⁴ on the farther side of which is a small mound covered with pottery, broken bricks, and glass. At 1 m. farther, the road skirts another little patch of drifted sand on the right; cultivation extended from it on our left. We here turned aside $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the road to visit a small mound called Sherifeh,⁵ where an Arab tomb was being slowly built of coarse bricks dug from the surface of the mound. A large piece of basalt, which had been used at a recent date as a mill-stone, and a polished slab of scoria lying near, seemed to indicate a Babylonian origin to the site.

Our route now lay across a marshy piece of land for some distance. Two Arab tombs, Imáms A'oun and Reshid, directed our onward course. At 5 m. from Sherifeh mound, the Ba'ashíyeh Canal⁶ crosses the path in a circuitous direction from the E. of Imám A'oun and its two date-trees on the right towards Imám Reshid on the left. It leaves the latter tomb on its N., and winds round to within 200 yards N. of the enclosed village⁷ of Ba'ashíyeh,† which is reduced to three or four families. Judging from the number of ruined mud houses among the surrounding date groves, the village must formerly have contained a considerable population. To the N. of the canal is a tomb called Imám Khithr. I may here remark, that Imáms of this name are of constant occurrence in the desert, receiving their appellation from their locality near a solitary date-tree, or where the smallest spot of "verdure" enlivens the eye of the traveller wearied by the continual glare of the arid soil around him. At

* Induced by my discoveries at Warka, Mr. Layard made an attempt to reach that ruin at the beginning of 1851. In his 'Nineveh and Babylon' he alludes, at p. 546, to these sand hills: "The sand issues from the earth like water from springs; and the Arabs call the sources Ayoun-er-remel (the sand-springs)."

† When I next visited this spot in January, 1854, a great change had taken place. The houses were nearly all covered up by sand drifts from the S.E., which were also burying the walls of the date groves, filling the water-courses, and destroying the date-trees. No drifts were visible in 1849.

⁴ El Hyman	20°
B. to Kala'at	281
N. extremity sands	323
F. road	108
⁵ El Hyman?	13
Imám A'oun	106

⁶ Imám A'oun	202°
„ Reshid	43
El Hyman	322
⁷ Imám Derbash	138
„ A'oun	249
„ Reshid	316

Ba'ashíyeh, where we halted for the night, deep wells afforded but indifferent water—the canal being dry.

Dec. 31.—On starting this morning we continued to follow the course of the canal, which is believed to be of ancient construction. The banks are very high. At that period of the year it was, as I have said, perfectly dry; but, on the rise of the Euphrates in March, it affords a plentiful supply of water for the irrigation of the land along its course. It was completely exhausted by its numerous offshoots before we reached the Gúdús⁸ canal. This canal, also derived from the "Great River," crossed our road from the s.w.; it was without water, and said to be ancient.

We now traversed arable and pasture lands belonging to the Zobeid Arabs. They were well stocked with sheep and cattle. We passed close to the ruined Kala'at Wádi,⁹ and Imám Derbash with its two date-trees. A few clumps of trees, on an easterly bend of the Euphrates, are visible at the distance of about 2 m.

At 5 m. from Ba'ashíyeh another dry canal¹⁰ is crossed, which is called Awádíl from an Imám near it. On the left, at 4 m. distance, is Imám Abrag, and near it two or three small mounds.

Another tract of cultivated land, and a third patch of sand-drifts,¹¹ are succeeded by a bare desert soil. At 3 m. beyond Awádíl is the dry channel of a canal running E.s.E., which, from the size and height of its banks, must formerly have been of considerable importance. It is called Es-Síb.¹² Four Imáms, Ashjerí on the left, El Khithr, Abú Enkhala, and Abú Chef on the right, are visible from hence. We now came upon a vast space of inundated ground, where numerous ploughs, drawn by teams of cattle, were actively employed, presenting a scene of greater industry than is usually beheld in that slothful country. The water was derived from the Shúmelí canal, which, flowing from the Euphrates, is divided near Abú Chef into two branches. One of these, about 10 yards broad, takes an eastern course towards a new kala'at, distant somewhat less than 2 m. from the place of crossing. The other branch, flowing to the s.e., is lost, at about

⁸ Ba'ashíyeh trees	306°	I. Awádíl	154°
Imám Derbash	162	Kala'at Wadi	301
Kala'at Wadi	156	¹¹ I. Abrag	45
Imám Awádíl	137	I. Awádíl	317
„ A'oun	276	I. El Khithr	202
„ Abrag	102° 30'	¹² I. Abrag	26
⁹ Imám Awádíl	125	I. El Khithr	240
„ Abrag	89	I. Abú Chef	173
Trees on Euphr.	228	I. Abú Enkhala	204
¹⁰ I. Abrag	75	I. Ashjerí	101
Trees on Euphr.	261		

6 m. from the point of bifurcation, in an extensive inundation—as we observed upon the left of our onward journey. This latter branch¹³ was crossed near the old Kala'at Shúmelif by means of a rude date-tree bridge erected for us in the course of a few minutes. This being one of the principal encamping-grounds of the Zobeid Arabs, numerous tents were clustered around the Kala'at.¹⁴ To avoid the newly-irrigated land we were obliged to make a considerable détour so as to reach the large camp of Sheikh Molla A'li. The old man was too ill to receive us, but on sending in Tahir Bey's letter, with a request to be provided with proper guides, he promptly ordered a black slave and three other horsemen to accompany us.

About 2 m. from the camp we passed, on the right bank of the s. branch of the Shúmelif, the ruins of a large village enclosed with mud towers for defence. Soon after quitting it, the canal flowed towards the inundation on the E. We pursued our way for about 2 m. with the large mounds of the ancient Hourieh¹⁵ canal on our right. It was crossed at a point where it could be traced until out of sight, bearing in a straight line 12° N. of E.

In the same direction we descried at a great distance the huge, ancient tower of unbaked brick, Ziblíyeh, shining distinctly in the last rays of the fast-setting sun. Dr. Ross of Baghdad and Mr. Baillie Fraser in 1834, and Sir H. Rawlinson and Mr. Hector in 1846, were the only persons who had succeeded in reaching it.* Time and distance would not admit of our making the attempt to do so.

From the banks of the Hourieh towards the s. and w. there spreads out a vast uninterrupted plain of yellowish sandy soil. A clump of trees at Shkhiyer, in the s.e., alone breaks the dull uniformity of the horizon in that direction.

A farther ride of 5½ miles brought us to Imám Múserrethee, ½ mile beyond which was the camp of Sheikh Saïd. For some reason unexplained our reception was not cordial. During the time we took shelter and warmed ourselves at the blazing fire in his huge black tent, while our own was being prepared, he addressed his conversation to his dependants with the most inhospitable rude-

* Mr. Layard visited this ruin in 1851, and described it, *loc. cit.*, p. 569. I subsequently reached it in 1854, in company with Mr. Bouteher and Mr. T. Ker Lynch of Baghdad. It is about 50 feet high, and 44 paces square at the base, which rests on a low brick mound, probably Parthian.

¹³ I. Ashjerí 51°	M. A.'s camp 164°
New Kala'at 93	¹⁵ Old Kala'at 320
Old Kala'at 136	New Kala'at 347
Landmark 199	Extremities of inundation 4°—91
¹⁴ New Kala'at 82	F. road 143
I. Ashjerí 51	Ziblíyeh 78
Landmark 144	

ness. We therefore declined his coffee when presented, and abruptly retired. This brought our host to his senses, for he immediately followed and made a lame but humble apology for his un-Arab-like conduct. We were afterwards tended with the greatest solicitude—provender for our animals, food and firing for ourselves and servants, were brought without delay, and we had no further cause, for the night at least, to complain of incivility or inattention.

Jan. 1, 1850.—The new year commenced with a bitter disappointment to my companion and myself. We had fully calculated on spending the first day of the year upon the ruins of Nufr or Niffar, the ancient Babylon of Sir H. Rawlinson,* and we had made a long journey the day previously for this purpose.

Our worthy host represented the way to the ruins as beset with innumerable difficulties and dangers; but, finding us to be stern in our resolve to overcome them, he yielded a reluctant consent that his son and a few horsemen should accompany us. After riding for upwards of an hour in a dense fog we discovered that we had been led a complete circuit round the camp! An angry parley ensued, as it was evident that our guides had received instructions to prevent our reaching the ruins. We therefore determined on giving up the attempt for the present, and insisted on being conducted to Shkhiyer. Slipping and sliding about in the mud and water of an extensive marsh, we reached that place in another hour.

Our journey had hitherto been through the district of the Zobeid Arabs under the late Sheikship of the Wadi Beg, an Arab appointed by Nedjib, ex-Pasha of Baghdad. In consequence, however, of his oppressive conduct and extortionate demands, the tribes over whom he ruled (for they included others as well as the Zobeid) were constantly in rebellion. Abdi, the new Pasha, therefore deposed him, and, at the time we passed through the country, he was in prison at Musseib. It was generally understood that the Pasha intended taking the management of these tribes into his own hands—a plan which appeared to give perfect satisfaction to the ill-used Arabs. Great jealousy and mistrust, however, during the interregnum were observable among the various neighbouring tribes, and, before reaching Shkhiyer, our guides took their departure, leaving us to enter the village without introduction.

* This is the conclusion arrived at by Sir H. Rawlinson, who places some confidence in the traditions of the early Arabs. The inscriptions upon its bricks prove that it was a great city long before Nebuchadnezzar founded the later Babylon, whose ruins still astonish the traveller, and concerning which its proud builder boasted, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" Dan. iv. 30. Sir H. Rawlinson, moreover, states that Niffar was the primitive Calneh.

Shkhiyer¹⁶ is a place of considerable size, situated on a narrow peninsula of low land, almost surrounded by the marsh. The huts are wholly constructed of reeds, which are tied in large bundles and neatly bent archwise. They are covered externally with thick reed matting, through which rain has some difficulty in penetrating.* The muthif, or reception hut of the Sheikh, is about 40 ft. long and 18 ft. high, blackened in the interior with the smoke and soot of years, which have no other vent but the one entrance at the extremity facing the marsh. Numerous huge reed-baskets, containing grain, indicated the comparative wealth of their owners. The manly and expressive countenances of the inhabitants, and their remarkable partiality for bright-coloured clothing, proclaimed them to be of a different caste to the Zobeid. They subsist chiefly on the rice produced by the marsh-land, which, at the season of our visit and for a third of the year, is entirely covered by inundation.

The Shkhiyer is a division of the Affej tribe (Sheikh Aggab), whose residence is among the marshes which extend from the Euphrates, near Diwanieh, eastward into the very heart of the Jezireh, and southward to the Shat-el-Kahr. The whole Affej tribe numbered about 3000 families, whose annual tribute to the Pasha's treasury amounted to 100,000 piastres, or upwards of 900*l*. The Pasha had, we understood, announced his intention of doubling that amount for the ensuing year. The tribe was consequently in no slight state of fermentation, and complained bitterly of the treatment they had at various times experienced from the governors of Baghdad. Nedjib Pasha had thrice cannonaded the fragile town.

Communication is maintained with other places by means of long sharp-pointed boats, or canoes, called "*terrádás*," which are constructed of Indian teak, measuring from 12 to 14 ft. in length, by about a yard in width at the broadest part. They are propelled at a rapid pace through the shallow water by means of long poles.

We spent the afternoon upon the marsh and in making preparations to reach Niffar on the following morning. Nothing could exceed the hospitality and kindness of old Sheikh Shkhiyer, his sons, and the whole tribe; but there was an evident disinclination towards accompanying us to the ruins. Before quitting Baghdad we were told that the Arabs would throw innumerable difficulties in our way, and, if possible, thwart our object. They were certainly very suspicious of our intentions, and could not be persuaded to

* An admirable description is given of the neighbouring but more important reed town of Suk-el-Affej by Mr. Layard, *loc. cit.*, p. 553.

believe that we merely wished to see a number of shapeless and barren mounds. They imagined that we must be in search of the treasure which Arab report says is deposited there.

Jan. 2.—After much persuasion we set out, accompanied by the Sheikh's youngest son Mahomed, and several horsemen of the tribe. Our whole party amounted to 17, well armed and mounted. The atmosphere was foggy, and in consequence of the distance we were obliged to ride much faster than we usually travelled, so that the position of Niffar in the map is not as correctly indicated as could be desired.* It is, however, sufficiently correct for general purposes. The distance of Niffar in a direct line, bearing 10° s. of E. from Shkhiyer, is, as far as we were able to judge, about 11 m.; but, on account of the marsh, we were obliged to make a circuit of 15 or 18 m. to the N. In about three months' time, owing to the rise of the Euphrates and therefore of the marshes, the ruins would have become inaccessible from any side by land.

About 5 m. from Shkhiyer there is a small mound, with a ruined brick building;¹⁷ and about 3 m. farther are numerous low but extensive mounds.¹⁸ From both of these points Niffar and Zibliyh were visible on our return in the evening.

For a considerable distance before reaching the ruins we followed the course of a very large ancient canal-bed † flowing direct from Zibliyh. I am inclined to believe that this was one of the main branches, if not the principal bed, of the old Shat-el-Nil before mentioned as passing near El Hymar. All trace of its course is lost before arriving at the ruins, and I am uncertain whether it passed through them or disappeared in the marshes on the west. The Arabs at Ba'ashiyeh told us that the Shat-el-Nil flowed past Niffar, but none of our present party appeared to know anything about the matter.

The ruins of Niffar appear in the distance to be of considerable size, but it is only on approaching them closely that their actual magnitude can be conceived. We had but a short time to examine them: they consist of an elevated platform divided into two nearly equal portions by a deep channel 36 or 40 paces wide, running in a direction 33° E. of s. The extent of this platform is about 1 m. from E.N.E. to W.S.W. and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from N.N.W. to S.S.E. Near the centre of the E. portion of the platform a conical

* Sir H. Rawlinson, from astronomical observations taken on two occasions, in 1846 and 1848, places Niffar in lat. $32^{\circ} 7' 3''$ N., and in long. $45^{\circ} 15'$ E. See *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, vol. xii. p. 481.

† Mr. Hector, of Baghdad, who visited Niffar in company with Sir H. Rawlinson, in 1846, called this canal, from Arab authority, "Derb-el-Jebábera," the Giants' Road.

¹⁷ Niffar	117°		¹⁸ Niffar	132°
Zibliyh	23			

mound rises to the height of about 70 ft. above the plain, the average height of the platform itself being 30 or 40 ft. on the E. side, and 50 ft. on the W. The whole surface is covered with fragments of pottery, bricks with cuneiform inscriptions, and glass. The sides of the cone are difficult to ascend, owing to the quantity of broken bricks and rubbish which appeared either to have composed its exterior or to have fallen from some structure on its summit. The bricks are both sun-dried and kiln-baked: the building constructed of the latter is pierced with similar oblong apertures to those observed at the Bîrs Nimrûd, El Hymar, and other ruins of the Babylonian age. These bricks were laid in bitumen cement, and bore inscriptions, although I was unable to procure one perfect. The remains of a large structure built of small bricks are situated on the W. platform. At a few hundred yards on the E. side of the ruins, fragments of what we supposed to be the exterior walls of the ancient city could be traced in a series of low continuous mounds.*

I may here mention, for the instruction of future travellers, that the best period of the year for visiting Niffar is from the middle of October till the middle of December, when the inundation is low and the season healthy. We were rather too late, as the ground for 3 m. before we arrived at the ruins was so soft that our horses sank above their fetlocks, and the water of the marsh extended to within a mile of the ruins. The access to Niffar is more easy from the Tigris than the Euphrates, there being less water towards the E.

We succeeded in getting back to our tents at Shkhiyer before dark.

Jan. 3.—Being obliged to cross the marsh, our horses and mules were led a considerable distance in order to avoid as much of it as possible, but they had nevertheless to ford in 3 ft. water for nearly an hour, and in several places to swim the deep streams.

We were conveyed in *terrâdâs* to the end of the canal stream which flows from the Euphrates past the village and date-trees of Deggâ'rah. After passing the mud fort of Abû Menhail, where its width is about 30 yards, it is lost in the wide portion of the marsh, over which we skimmed. We then followed a ditch or lane, scarcely broader than our canoe, keeping a southerly direction for about 1 m. among overshadowing reeds and long grasses. Getting at length clear of this confined navigation, we crossed another reach to a low mound of sundried bricks, called Lethamî, whence are obtained bearings of Diwanieh and other places on the Euphrates.

* For a more detailed account of Niffar, and of the excavations undertaken there in 1851, consult Layard's '*Nineveh and Babylon*,' at pages 550 and 556.

Opposite to Lethamí we parted from our amphibious friends and resumed our journey on horseback across marshy and cultivated ground. We passed Imám Abul-fathl about 1 m. on our right, and soon reached a kala'at. Crossing a small stream we turned slightly to the right over more ploughed lands to an Arab encampment on the Bou-na'ash canal, 20 yards broad. It being too deep for us to cross at this point, the sheikh (who turned out to welcome us in a pea-green zibbún, yellow slippers, and red beard!) sent his son to show us a ford 1 m. higher up, where the water was but 4 ft. deep. This canal also flows into the marshes.

We now traversed a thick grove of fine tamarisks and some cultivation until we arrived at the square Arab fort and reed village of Húluce on the Bou-na'ash. A series of deep ditches or watercourses, as if for defence, completely surrounds this place.

A barren desert, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. across, extends from hence to Yúsufieh,¹⁹ a small village surrounded by date-trees, and situated on an important canal or river of the same name. This is a main trunk stream from the Euphrates, and gives off several considerable branches during its inland course. It is here 45 ft. wide, but very deep, with high banks, and is crossed by a ferry-boat. The Arab town of Diwanieh stands 1 m. farther on upon the left bank of the Euphrates. Here we encamped for the night.

Jan. 4.—We duly delivered our letters to Abdi Pasha, who, with a camp of 3000 men, was stationed on the w. side of the Euphrates. He had been for some time previously engaged in the important work of rebuilding a “sud,” or dam, at the largest mouth of the Hindieh canal near Musseib, above Hillah.

Soon after passing Musseib (lat. $32^{\circ} 48' 15''$ N. and long. $44^{\circ} 18'$ E.) the Euphrates is divided into two streams. The more easterly one, flowing by Hillah, retains its name, but the other is called “the Hindieh.”* It flows due s. until it spreads out into those extensive marshes w. of the Birs Nimrúd, which are believed to have constituted part of the Paludes Babylonæ. After passing Kufa, the early seat of Mahomedan learning, it falls into the great inland sea, the Bahr-i-Nedjef. From hence two streams issue at Shinafieh, but they afterwards unite and form what is called the Semava or western branch of the Euphrates. When greatly flooded, the Euphrates frequently forces open a new passage, or enlarges that previously existing, at the entrance

* It is supposed to be so called because its channel was improved by an Indian prince named Núwáb Shujah-ed-doulet. Is it not rather the Pallacopas of Alexander, dug after his Indian campaigns?

¹⁹ Down Canal 141°	Húluce 40°
1. Abu El-fathl 337	Diwanieh trees 170

of the Hindieh. Thus a considerable portion of its stream is diverted from the river, and it is necessary to restrain this efflux by building suds or dams at the point of bifurcation. The natural effect of too large a body of water quitting the Euphrates to flow through the Hindieh is to deprive the banks of the river and the country on the E. of their due share of irrigation at the proper season of the year, and to reduce all the canals on that side to such an extent as to cause the inhabitants of the villages on their course to abandon their lands. It is, therefore, to the interest of the Pashas of Baghdad to keep the "suds" or dikes in repair, but, unfortunately, the Khezail Arabs along the course of the Hindieh are a turbulent race and constantly in rebellion against the government. Their first object is to destroy the suds (which have cost so much money and labour) and to flood their marshes, because by so doing they are totally beyond the power of the pasha for the time being. The rebuilding and repairing of the suds is a labour of Tantalus for the perplexed Pashas of Baghdad. Abdi Pasha had recently completed a labour of this kind, and it was in consequence of it that so much of the country we had just traversed was inundated. He was now at Diwanieh watching the result of his work, and arranging matters consequent on the Wadi Beg's deposition. He used every effort to induce us to rejoin the troops on the W. of the Euphrates—representing the Mádán Arabs as perfectly beyond his control, wild and savage, and the country impassable on account of the waters. We released him from all responsibility concerning us, and he ultimately consented to send eight Bashi Bazúks with us in place of those who returned to Hillah. In the course of the day we also secured the services of an Arab sheikh who was acquainted with the line of route we desired to follow. We also provided ourselves with sheepskins to form a raft in case of need.

Jan. 5.—From Diwanieh the remainder of our journey through the Jezíreh was in a region hitherto untrodden by Europeans.

The general direction of the day's route was E.S.E., over a slightly undulating plain totally devoid of interest. At 7 m. from Diwanieh we left two small mounds, called Berhayn, on our right. Passing the old Kala'at Shermánieh²⁰ at 12 miles, in view of the distant trees of Mellahé, on the Yúsufieh on our left, we arrived at our night's encampment with a tribe of Khezail Arabs, near a number of ruined kala'ats. A large flat-topped mound, resembling a gigantic black tent, was conspicuous from all sides at 1½ m. from our camp. It was built of sun-dried bricks, and is probably not of greater antiquity than the time of the Parthians. At its

²⁰ Tabiah 164° 30' | Mellahé trees 66°

base were several ruined Arab enclosures, indicating that the locality was more populous a few years ago.

Jan. 6.—For 3 miles our road was due E., over ploughed land and through a thick grove of tamarisks, until we reached the Turunjieh Canal,²¹ at the point where it leaves a larger stream called the Faw'war. Both canals flow into the marshes E. of the Euphrates. A strong dam at the entrance of the Turunjieh (which is here 80 ft. wide) had, until lately, admitted but a small stream of water, sufficient for the supply of one or two kala'ats and the cultivated lands adjoining them. The Arabs holding them, however, had become refractory, and refused to pay their taxes. They thought to defy the authority of the Pasha by destroying the dam over the Turunjieh, and inundating the country.

Mústapha Beg, the Kiaya of Baghdad, was despatched by Abdi Pasha with a strong force against the rebels, and his first care was to shut off the water completely from the Turunjieh, by building an enormous dam of earth and brushwood in the usual manner. He then proceeded to besiege a kala'at, to which the Arabs had retired, and sought to defend. We heard that he had taken possession of it that morning, the besieged having evacuated it during the night with all their moveables, leaving behind only mud walls and abundance of filth. No one was killed, no one wounded during the whole affair.

By means of the Kiaya's new dam we were enabled to pass dryshod over the Turunjieh. We then proceeded about 1½ mile S.E. along the course of the Faw'war, until we arrived opposite to the ruined village of Súk-el-Faw'war.²² Here the sheepskins obtained before quitting Diwanieh were of service. Being inflated and tied to our tent-poles and boughs of tamarisks, they formed a primitive sort of kellek or raft, by assistance of which ourselves and baggage were conveyed safely across the Faw'war, which was not less than 100 ft. wide and about 6 ft. deep.

The Faw'war canal is derived from the above-mentioned Yúsufieh at Mellahé, and flows nearly due S. From the same point also the Yúsuffeh gives off the Shat-el-Kahr and other branches which supply the country farther eastward.

Nowhere is the effect of the Hindíeh, in abstracting too much water from the Euphrates, better understood than at Súk-el-Faw'war. It was formerly a large and thriving town, like Affej or Súk-es-Sheioukh, the centre of a district belonging to the Montefik Arabs, and surrounded by a series of small towers and

²¹ B. road to Kalah 270°

²² Tabiah 266

Mellahé trees 352°

Kalah on left 189

watercourses for defence against their more unsettled neighbours. About twenty-five years ago, according to the best information we could obtain, the town was abandoned in consequence of the water having deserted the canal, owing to the breaking of one of the dams at the mouth of the Hindíeh. The country E. of the Euphrates became a waterless desert beyond the borders of the great marshes. At the time of our visit, decayed date-trees and the ruins of the mud houses of Súk-el-Faw'war extended full half a mile along both sides of the stream, and afforded good shelter for jackals and serpents. Abdi Pasha's late work at the Hindíeh had, however, restored a copious stream to the channel of the Faw'war.

A winding course of 2 m. brought us to the Muthlim canal, another branch from the Yúsuffeh at Mellahé. Although of but inconsiderable width, it was 5 ft. deep, and overflowed the country on both sides. We encamped on the eastern bank, near Kala'at Muthlim,²³ with the Amír tribe of the Khezail. Three small mounds, called Bahrí, with fragments of ancient pottery, were situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile N.N.E. of the kala'at.

Jan. 7.—Leaving the inundated lands adjoining the Muthlim, we crossed a desert tract slightly rising in the direction of our route. At 8 m. from the kala'at is a small square Arab mound, called Ed-desim,²⁴ whence we defined the course of the Shat-el-Kahr on our E. by fixing the positions of Kala'ats Detcheh, Haihah, Djemideh, &c., on its banks 2 or 3 m. distant. Passing a mound of no great size on our left called Djemideh, and at 4 miles on our right an Imám named Sahib Ez-zemán, we reached another ruined kala'at—Mulkhezí,²⁵ 1 m. from Ed-desim.

The ground here becomes lower, and continues descending to the dry bed of a river or canal, called Skhain, or Es-sahain,²⁶ but which our Sheikh knew also as the old bed of the Faw'war. He said that it likewise became dry twenty-five years ago. The channel is 270 ft. wide and 15 ft. deep, almost large enough to absorb the stream of the Euphrates; whether it has ever done so, or whether it was merely the course of the Faw'war widened through want of proper attention to the banks, I am unable to say. It may possibly be the continuation of that branch of the Níl which I believe to have passed Niffar; at any rate, on looking at the map

²³ Mellahé trees	312° 30'
Suk-el-Faw'war	247 30
Kalah on left	299
F. road	116
Bahri	17
²⁴ K. Mulkhezí	149
K. Djemideh	59 15
K. Haihah	25

K. Detcheh	22° 30'
I. Sahib Ez-zemán	202 30
²⁵ I. Sahib Ez-zemán	216
K. Djemideh	30
K. Haihah	10 30
K. Detcheh	8
Phara	90
²⁶ K. Mulkhezí	303

it will be seen that the directions of the two channels correspond in a singular manner. The Skhain pursues an E.S.E. course, giving off branches on either side. We followed it for nearly 4 m.,²⁷ when our road struck off more easterly. In the centre of the channel are several deep holes, dug by the Arabs for water, which it evidently contains at some period of the year, as proved by the abundant remains of shells, with their coloured epidermis, belonging to several freshwater genera.

A patch of sandhills crosses the road at 6 miles from Kala'at Mulkhezí, having precisely the same features as near Ba'ashíyeh. The Gúerma Canal,²⁸ containing a little water, occurs about 1½ m. farther. Imám Seyd Sáfi stands on it, 2 m. to the s. We were told that it proceeds from a place called Terrah, a considerable distance on our left, out of the Shat-el-Kahr. At 1½ mile beyond this we encamped in the desert at the Khurukha²⁹ canal from the same source, where we procured excellent water.

January 8.—Our route continued towards the E.S.E. over a perfectly level plain, with the hitherto unvisited ruin of Hammam towering in the horizon with the morning mirage. After travelling for several successive days over an uninteresting desert, the first sight of one of these vast piles erected in a remote age is impressive in the extreme. The hazy atmosphere of early morning is peculiarly favourable to this feeling, and, as a veil of gray mist hangs between the object and the beholder, he is lost in pleasing doubt as to the actual reality of the vision.

Advancing to the point in view, we passed on the right three extensive ranges of mounds—Wafrí, El Azrah, and Wáshi; all, I believe, of ancient date. As we approached the ruin, the lofty mound of Tel Ede or Yede rose in the S.E. horizon.

We had been told by the Arabs that a statue existed at Hammam, but as little reliance is to be placed on their information on such points, we paid very slight attention to their account. Great, therefore, was our delight and astonishment, when, at about 200 yards from the N.W. corner of the ruin, we were shown three broken fragments of a human figure in fine-grained black granite, the proportions and carving of which would not have disgraced a Grecian chisel. The bust—minus head, neck, and arms—is broken from the rest of the trunk at the waist. The hands are clasped in front, and appear to hold up the hem of a garment thrown loosely over the left shoulder. The right shoulder is bare and inscribed with a (now defaced) cuneiform legend. It measures 1 ft. 4 in.

²⁷ I. Sahib Ez-zemán 255° 30'
K. Mulkhezí 278
Phara 358
I. Seyd Sáfi 128
F. road 104

²⁸ I. Seyd Sáfi 197° 30'
El Wafrí 126

²⁹ I. Seyd Sáfi 222
El Wafrí 187 30

from neck to waist, and when perfect 1 ft. 7 in. from shoulder to shoulder. The second portion, broken from the first, represents the remainder of the trunk, and measures 2 ft. 6 in. in length. The surface is much injured, but upon the right hip and side is another defaced inscription in complicated Babylonian characters, bordered with a deep fringe similar to that seen on Assyrian sculptures. The third and last portion of this interesting relic is a shapeless block 1 ft. 1 in. long, by 10 in. wide, polished on one side, and exhibiting a piece of garment fringe. In it also is a curiously cut hole, the use of which is unintelligible. We were informed that, less than two years previously, this statue was quite perfect, but that a tribe of persons, who work in iron * near Sûk-es-Sheioukh, had broken it with large hammers in the expectation of discovering gold inside ! It had since served the Arabs as a target for ball practice ! As, however, statues of the Babylonian age are rare, I secured the three fragments—scratched and damaged as they are from the ill-usage they had sustained—and carried the awkward loads on the backs of our mules to Busrah, whence they were shipped for England.†

The building of Hammam ‡—"the high place," no doubt, from which the condemned idol had fallen—rises 50 ft. above the surrounding plain, 28 ft. being brickwork, the rest mound. Seen from the N.W. the summit appears to project over the sides, owing to their having fallen away at the base. The original form was a square, the sides of which are now reduced to 78 ft. each, and the angles rounded off. The most N. angle points 20° E. of N. A deep channel, caused by rain, furrows the centre of each face, leaving the angles projecting upwards like four rounded turrets, which are likewise considerably weatherworn. The bricks are sundried clay, mixed with barley chaff and chopped straw. They measure $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches square by 5 or $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. Between each layer is a layer of reeds, whose projecting ends form penthouses which have preserved the building from complete destruction by the elements. At the base lie quantities of broken kiln-baked bricks, of which undoubtedly the exterior surface was constructed.

* The Sabæans, or Christians of St. John Mendaï, are here implied. A few families of this interesting and ancient race still remain at Sûk-es-Sheioukh, Busrah, and Dizful, where they maintain themselves as blacksmiths and jewellers.

† They now lie in the cellars of the British Museum. They form, I believe, the only specimens of undoubted Babylonian statuary yet brought to England. A second but smaller statue, obtained by me in 1854 from the neighbouring mound of Yok-hah, has since arrived and is deposited at the same place.

‡ Sir H. Rawlinson states that Hammam is probably the Gulaba of cuneiform inscriptions.—*Proceedings of Royal Geog. Soc.*, vol. i. p. 47.

30 Tel Ede	192° 30'
Eth-thahir	74 30
Kala'at Rothan	96
„ El-mashe	164

Mureïchin mound	206° 30'
Ed-douwa „	236
Trees of Turra on the Kahr	351 30

Numerous low mounds surround the edifice, and extend to a great distance on the w.s.w. They would, I apprehend, well repay excavations. Pieces of black-grained granite, scoria, bricks, glass, pottery, &c., are strewn on the surface; and at the n. corner of the tower is a slab of vitrified scoria 21 by 23 in. square, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, of a dark gray colour. I picked up the alveolus of a belemnite characteristic of geological formations, which do not occur nearer than the Persian mountains. A few hundred yards s. of the tower are four small conical hillocks in a square. A ruined edifice stands a little eastward of this point. I regret not having had more time to bestow at this interesting locality.*

From Hammam our course lay s.s.w. towards Tel Ede, 6 m. distant. On the surface of the desert I here discovered the first indications of a post-tertiary marine deposit in the presence of two broken shells of the genus *Strombus*. Just before arriving at the mound we turned aside to the e. for the purpose of examining a large range of sandhills, which extend in irregular, undulating hillocks towards the n.e., and also towards Tel Ede. Decayed stumps and branches of tamarisks jut out from the hillocks as though they were destroyed or choked by the drifting sand.

We had now attained the Montefik country, and, as we advanced, a half-naked race of savages—wearing no covering but a loose abba, their long locks streaming wildly in the wind—rushed out, spear and club in hand, to meet our little party, who, they supposed, were going to plunder them. Children were busily engaged in driving the cattle from every direction towards the tents, where the women kept up their peculiar and shrill tahlehl. Sixty warriors advanced in two lines in New Zealand fashion, with a kind of running dance, singing their war-cry, and throwing up their weapons high into the air to catch them again with great dexterity as they descended. Proving, however, to be peaceful travellers we were allowed to pass unmolested, and were subsequently entertained at their camp. These Arabs belonged to the Madán tribes; they possess large flocks of cattle and sheep, which find excellent grazing on the short green herbage springing up after the early rains among the sand-dunes.

Tel Ede or Yede³¹ much disappoints the expectation. It is a huge artificial pile of solid sand, 90 ft. high. The circumference of its base is 850 paces. The form is irregular, the longest diameter measuring from n.w. to s.e., and the highest point is the n.w.

* An edifice resembling that of Hammam, but on a smaller scale, stands 3 m. e. of Bir-onús, on the road between Baghdad and Hillah. It is called Sheikh Shúbár, or Towebah.

³¹ Nuffayji mound 207° 45'
Warka great mound 204

Mound 150° 30'
I. Seyd Sáfi' 317 45

The s.w. face is inaccessible, while that on the n.e. is furrowed with deep channels. A portion of the n.w. side is much weathered, and the solid sandy mass exposed and deeply eroded. Neither bricks nor pottery were observed on its sides or at its base, as at nearly every other ancient mound, although there are low mounds covered with these usual relics on the n.e. The sandhills stretch out visibly to a great distance on the s. and s.e. To the s.w. the eye dwells on the immense mounds of Warka, 10 m. distant. We encamped for the night with our newly-made savage friends, 2 m. s.s.e. of Tel Ede.

Jan. 9.—The sandhills extend from n. to s. in a kind of belt. At 2½ m. we descended from them into a level plain, from which rose on both sides a few small artificial mounds. At one place the ground was covered for nearly a mile with a carpet of the richest verdure I ever beheld, and numerous herds of beautiful gazelles, browsing upon it, bounded off at our approach. This scene was the more delightful when compared with the barren and glaring desert of the other portion of our journey. The lofty and imposing mounds of Warka³² added to the effect of this scene, as they rose more fully into view and afforded full scope to the imagination. After crossing the outer walls of the city, each step that we advanced convinced us that it was one of the most important ruins in Mesopotamia, and that its vast area abounds in objects of the highest interest and value to the historian and antiquary.

A detailed account of Warka would occupy too much space in this paper; it is therefore my intention to devote a separate memoir to do the subject full justice at another opportunity.

It may not, however, be out of place to remark, that this portion of Chaldæa is occupied by the remains of numerous ancient necropolis-cities. Of these, Warka is infinitely the most extensive and remarkable. Its walls, 5½ miles in circumference, enclose an enormous platform of mounds and ruins, while the desert beyond is studded with large conical mounds, one of which, Nuffayjî, stands a mile distant from the walls, and rises to the height of 90 feet.

There are three principal structures upon the platform—temples or tombs—it is impossible to ascertain which, without excavations carried on at great expense. Of these the “Bouárieh”—so called from the “reed mats” placed at intervals between its mud bricks—is supported by buttresses of brick-masonry bearing legends of Uruk, a monarch whom Sir H. Rawlinson believes to have flourished B.C. 2300.

³² From the great mound at Warka—
Tel Ede 24° 30'
Nuffayjî 1 30
Trees 306 15

Kala'at 301° 15'
I. Khithr 212 30
Sinkara 102 30

The second edifice affords a very important addition to our knowledge of Babylonian architecture at a later age.

The great feature of the ruins is the mass of sepulchral remains which constitute the chief portion of the great platform, and prove beyond a doubt that Warka was a sacred burial-place from the very earliest times till about the commencement of the Christian era. Among other forms, slipper-shaped coffins of glazed earthenware extend to the depth of 30 (and perhaps 60) feet.

The most valuable discovery was that of some tablets, which, according to Sir H. Rawlinson, bear the names of Seleucus and Antiochus the Great, proving that cuneiform writing was practised as late as 200 B.C.

Although the phonetic name of Warka has not been determinedly fixed from the cuneiform inscriptions, there can be little doubt of its identity with the Erech of Scripture—Nimrod's second city. Sir H. Rawlinson finds it generally designated as, *par excellence*, "the City;" and he therefore assigns to it a very remote antiquity.

We spent $2\frac{1}{2}$ days in rambling over and examining the ruins, during which time we made as correct a plan as circumstances would permit. It was with no little regret that we were once more obliged to proceed on our journey, but we hoped that an opportunity would again occur of revisiting a spot so replete with interest.* Many small objects of value were obtained during this visit.

Jan. 11.—From Warka to the new Kala'at Debbi, or Dúráj, ³³ on the Euphrates, is a distance of 9 m. s.s.e. The latter part of the road passes over rough ground among decayed reeds, and is intersected by numerous canal beds, at this period of the year perfectly dry. We encamped for the night in sight of Tel Ede, Warka, and Sinkara, which is another large ruin bearing 10 m. E. by S. from Warka.

The Madán Arabs, on the Euphrates between Semáva and Súkes-Sheioukh, were at this time governed (?) by a chief appointed by the Sheikh of the Montefik. Two brothers, Sa'adún and Debbi, had for many years enjoyed this lucrative post alternately. The

* On reaching Mohammerah, and announcing the results of our discoveries to Col. Williams, I was directed to return to Warka, and to make excavations on a small scale. I was rewarded by securing the three remarkable slipper-shaped, glazed coffins, and other articles, now in the British Museum.

In 1854 I spent three months at Warka and its vicinity, in charge of the expedition sent out by the Assyrian Excavation Fund. A portion of the results obtained during the researches was published in the First Report of the Committee. I propose shortly to prepare a full account of my labours for the press.

³³ "Wuswas" ruin at Warka 334° 30'
Tel Ede 2

Sinkara 47° 30'

former was now Sheikh; the latter resided at the Kala'at, which he built and therefore named. When in authority, he is a cruel tyrant. We saw several poor wretches whom he had deprived of their hands or feet.

Jan. 12.—This day we followed the downward course of the Euphrates E.S.E.

From Dúrájī to the small Imám Khithr³⁴ is 5 miles, beyond which are visible on the left the vast marshes of Shatra, formed by the junction of the Shat-el-Kahr with the large branch of the Tigris, the Shat-el-Hie, which joins the Euphrates somewhat lower down.

We crossed the "great river" by means of a ferry-boat at a ruined Kala'at, 17 m. below Dúrájī. At this season of the year the w. side of the Euphrates is frequented by numerous wild Bedouin tribes for the sake of the vegetation on its banks. We passed several small encampments of Aneza and Dhefyr without being in the least molested.

After travelling 5 miles farther over cultivated lands, with the distant ruin of Mugayer in sight on our right, we encamped at the tents³⁵ of a tribe of Agail Arabs, opposite to Imám Sheriffí. From this point commence the date groves, which extend in uninterrupted line along the river's course to its entrance into the Persian Gulf. We here found a messenger from the Sheikh of the Montefik awaiting the troops, which, notwithstanding our zigzag route and delay at Warka, had not yet arrived. This gave us an opportunity of visiting the Mugayer, and we, therefore, made our arrangements for the morrow.

Jan. 13.—The celebrated canal, Pallacopas, cut by Alexander the Great, is laid down on several maps between the Euphrates and Mugayer. I looked around carefully in the hope of detecting some trace of it, but without success. There is certainly a small stagnant piece of water in a modern and insignificant canal-bed, about 1½ m. from the Euphrates, but this is not of sufficient importance to warrant its being considered any part of the ancient stream. The channel may, however, have become filled up with sand, and we had no opportunity of searching farther in the desert westward.

The Mugayer,³⁶ sometimes incorrectly called Umgeyer, was first described by Mr. Baillie Fraser,* whose description is generally correct. It is, however, only 6 (not 10 or 11) miles from the nearest point of the Euphrates, and is situated at the N.W. corner of extensive but low mounds, and consists of two distinct stories. Like the

* 'Mesopotamia and Assyria,' p. 148.

³⁴ Sinkara 13° 30'	I. Sheriffí 356°
³⁵ Mugayer 178 45	³⁶ Abú Shehrine, or Shahrein, 214 15'

two kiln-brick buildings at Warka, two of its angles face the cardinal points (the n. and s.). The n.w. and s.w. sides of the lower story are tolerably perfect; the former measures 133 ft., the latter 199 ft. in length. Shallow buttresses, 8 ft. wide, occur at every 15 or 16 ft. apart. The elevation was measured on the s.w. side, and shows the total height of the ruin to be 53 ft. 9 in. It stands on a mound covered with rubbish, which makes the height of the Mugayer above the desert about 70 ft. As the brickwork rises in height it gradually slopes inwards at an angle of 9° , and to this circumstance may be attributed the comparatively perfect condition of the structure. Between the stories is an inclined plane, which measures 19 ft. on the s.w. and 30 ft. 6 in. on the n.w. side, from the top of the lower story to the base of the upper. This incline was, probably, a flight of steps, as I observed at the w. corner eight rows of bricks, the lower ones of which project 6 in. beyond those above. A similar arrangement is observable at the top of the upper story.

The s.w. wall of the upper story is 119 ft. long, but broken at several places and encumbered with rubbish. At the w. corner a small piece of sun-dried brickwork is visible. Of this probably the interior of the fabric is composed. The length of the n.w. side is about 115 ft.

At the centre of the n.e. side of the building there appear to be the remains of a flight of steps of brickwork, 8 ft. wide, ascending from the base to the summit of the edifice, but it is almost concealed by broken bricks and rubbish. I fancied that one, or probably two entrances could be distinguished at the s.e. side, but here the brickwork has nearly all fallen. A quantity of rubbish conceals a large portion of the lower story on the s.w. side.

We looked in vain for the circular hole observed by Mr. Fraser on the summit, but could only discover a slight depression, which did not in the least strike us as likely to have been, as that gentleman suggested, an entrance to the interior. I much doubt there being any chamber within the structure.

The apertures, which pierce the brickwork, are similar to those seen in all structures of the same age. I observed that the thick layers of bitumen with which the bricks are cemented, have in many parts pieces of broken bricks and pottery mixed with it.

From the summit we procured a few bricks bearing inscriptions, copies of which were carefully made, and also one with a smaller square-stamped legend.

A few paces from the s.e. base and near the e. corner is a small mound, the summit of which measures 36 ft. square. The sides are covered with slag and scoria. Possibly it may have been the foundation on which a fire-altar once stood.

About 200 yards from the n.e. base Mr. Churchill discovered

three large blocks of black granite projecting from the mound. On removing the earth some parts exhibited a fine polish, but they are so much broken that their original form could not be distinguished. They possibly belonged to a statue or altar which occupied the depression on the top of the building. Upon one of these blocks was an inscription. Another piece, about 1 ft. 10 in. long by 2 ft. wide, appeared to be the top of an altar or table, the upper surface of which was plain; a moulding rounded off at the angles, and 8 in. deep, ran along the top of each side. Upon two opposite sides were ornaments in high relief resembling a capital letter A reversed, and supporting the moulding. The third side was plain, and the fourth, opposite to it, broken. The base was not found.

Near the N. corner was another block, which exhibited symmetry, and which we concluded was the back of an enormous colossal figure. With all the strength of our party it could not be moved from its position.

The surface of the mounds around is strewed with the usual relics, but time did not admit of our examining them.

From the Mugayer several large mounds are visible in the s.w., one of which, called Abú Shahrein, is of some importance, having apparently the remains of a large building on its summit.*

We rejoined our tents and baggage at Arjah³⁷ on the Euphrates, 6 m. N.E. of the Mugayer, where we also found the troops had arrived from Diwanieh. The remainder of the journey to Busrah was performed in company with them.

Jan. 14.—Following the course of the Euphrates in a S.E. direction over broken ground and dead reeds, the party at length reached Swaje, 1 mile above the town of Súk-es-Sheioukh, where is the usual encampment of the powerful sheikh of the Montefik. I need not dwell on a description of this place, since it has frequently been visited by European travellers. The number of coloured natives much surprised us.

Fahád, the Sheikh recently appointed in place of his deceased brother Bunder, behaved with the most princely hospitality, supplying not only ourselves, but the whole of the troops, with corn and

* During the early part of 1854, Mr. Taylor, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Busrah, acting under Sir H. Rawlinson's instructions, made extensive excavations at the Mugayer, the results of which have recently appeared in vol. xv. part ii. of the '*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.*' It will be interesting to compare my account of the great edifice with his; but it must be borne in mind that the above was written four years before Mr. Taylor's discoveries. Allusion is here made to some points which that gentleman omits. From an examination of the Mugayer cylinders of Nabonidus discovered by Mr. Taylor, Sir H. Rawlinson says that its name was "Húr," the Ur of the Chaldees. May not, however, the locality mentioned in Genesis refer to a district, its name being still retained in the Greek *Ορχον*, the modern *Warka*?

provisions during our stay and for our future journey of $2\frac{1}{2}$ days across the desert to Zobair. He exhibited his independence, however, by receiving the Turkish officers seated,* and would not permit either them or the soldiers to enter the town of Sūk-es-Sheioukh under any pretext on horseback.

Jan. 15.—On quitting Swaje we passed several small mounds of ancient construction; viz. Ma Battúsh,³⁸ Shán-el-Abd, Musbah, and Tel-el-Lahm. The first 5 miles of our progress was much retarded by marsh and inundation, after which a perfectly dry desert succeeded.

At about 9 miles from Swaje may be said to commence the beds of sand, gravel, and gypsum, which extend without interruption to beyond Zobair. The gravel, which forms undulating ridges, is chiefly composed of pebbles of white and coloured quartz, much rounded by attrition and varying in size at different localities; sometimes they are extremely small, and at others more than 2 in. in diameter. Its other components are red and black cherts and clays, black flinty slate, porphyry, and a few pebbles of pinkish granite, composed of quartz and feldspar (and oxide of iron). Judging from their angular aspect in many instances the pebbles have not been transported from a great distance. Many other altered and igneous rocks occur here which are not found in similar beds at Mizrakí Khán, between Baghdad and Hillah. I am therefore inclined to think that the southern deposit of gravel is derived from a different source—say from the Persian mountains—while the northern beds have been brought from the Taurus. I do not, however, advance this hypothesis with any degree of certainty.†

We halted for the night without water.

Jan. 16.—By directing our course considerably to the E. of the usual road we were enabled to reach the great inundation of the Euphrates at 7 o'clock in the evening. Our poor animals had not drank for 32 hours. The shore of the inundation is white with small quartz-pebbles. Throughout the day not a single object of interest attracted the attention.

Jan. 17.—The same monotonous undulations of gravel and sand

* On my return to Warka a month afterwards, I was under great obligations to Sheikh Fahád for the security he afforded me among the wild Mádan at Warka and Sinkara. It was therefore with no little regret I subsequently heard that Fahád had been poisoned by the Pasha's orders, at Zobair, for his behaviour to the Turkish troops, as above described!

† At the time the above was written I was unaware of the fact, since ascertained by Mr. Taylor, that black granite (basalt?) abounds farther to the w. See 'Asiatic Soc. Journ.,' vol. xv. p. 404. To this igneous eruption may be attributed the altered rocks.

³⁸ Imám Abbas at Swaje	.. 40° 45'
Tel-el-Lahm 198
Tel Mathara 271 15
Tel Ibára 198 5

Minaret at the Sūk 83° 30'
Tel Musbah 143 45
Tel Shan el-Abd 112

continued till evening, when we caught sight of Jebel Sinám (a solitary pile of basalt), far in the s.w., which served in some degree to relieve the tedium of our march till nightfall.

We encamped at Zobair,³⁹ a picturesque old Arab town, with quaint square towers and numerous minarets. The modern town is built on the ruins of old Busrah, which occupy an enormous space and extend to the extremity of the gravel deposits, that terminate in the marsh or inundation of the Shat-el-Arab. This vast sheet of water reaches up to the very walls of modern Busrah, 5 miles. In consequence of it, and the neglect of the Turkish authorities, this once thriving city is become a complete pest-house, and must in a few years cease altogether to exist, unless the Porte act promptly and cause the Euphrates to be restrained in its channel by means of strong dams. With the death or departure of the greater portion of the inhabitants, commerce has almost entirely ceased; one or two European vessels now alone forms the yearly average, in lieu of the numbers which a few years ago frequented the commodious anchorage in the noble Shat-el-Arab.

Having given our animals a day's rest at Busrah after their fatiguing march, we resumed our journey, and on the following day joined Col. Williams and the remainder of his party at Mo-hammerah, the most southerly point on the Turco-Persian frontier.

It is necessary to remark that the map which accompanies this paper was constructed by Mr. Churchill from careful traverse bearings taken by us both with an excellent prismatic compass, made by Troughton and Simms. The traverses were then squared in between the fixed points Baghdad, Hillah, Diwanieh, Súk-es-Sheioukh and Busrah, as laid down by the officers of the Euphrates Expedition.

The routes between Hillah, Meshed Ali, and Kerbellá are also from actual bearings taken by Mr. Churchill and myself during a visit made to those places in the autumn of 1849.

The entrance of the Hindfeh Canal, or branch of the Euphrates, is given from my own observation.

N.B. Much reliance must not be placed on the bearings given in the margin. They are taken from rough notes, my original road-book having been recently lost in the Turkish post, which was plundered by the Arabs between Baghdad and Jezireh-bin-Omar. The bearings are corrected to 2° w. variation.

³⁹ Sheikh Ma'arúf 172° 30'
Jebel Sinám 193 15